



# PA'LANTE NEWS

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## A Message from the Board President of The Latino Social Work Coalition

Celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month!

Greetings! Hope you enjoy your summer and your vacations. We were very busy following our mission: advocating to decreasing the shortage of Latino social workers, mentoring, and providing scholarships to the new cohort of Latino social work students.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> we had the golden opportunity to testifying on behalf of our members and Latino community at the New York State Department of Education (NYSDE) Public Hearing, of the Social Work, Part Y of Chapter 57 of the Laws in Albany. This could not be possible without the help of our Board members, Maria Elena Girone, Elaine Congress and Annecy Baez, and others. Also, I want to thank our dear friend, Jose Nazario, for his continued support. Their input was vital to presenting the facts about the magnitude of the shortage of social workers. The lack of Latino social workers on the forefront put our community at risk. We cannot thank our board members enough for their relentless dedication and commitment to our mission.

As I was testifying on front of the NYSED, it reminded me of the reason why I became a social worker. I was the voice of many Latino social workers. Only a few people had the opportunity to testify and present a clear picture of the shortage of social workers and its impact on our community. Now, more than ever, our family and children are in need of our services brought about by the opioids epidemic, leaving a tremendous number of our children abandoned; the unstable immigration issues, leaving our family without any type of resources; and the ever-growing homeless population.

The Enacted 2018 Budget contains significant language changes to ensure that licensed and non-licensed staff will be able to continue to provide services to consumers at our agencies until 2020.

- The current practice exemptions will continue for at least a two-year period and until guidance and regulations are issued by NYSED with input from agencies.
- Any employees hired during the two-year exemption period, would be permanently grandfathered and exempt for as long as they work for your agency or a similar program.
- Staff with limited permits will be allowed to practice so long as they are supervised by staff with relevant Master's degrees.

Our advocacy continues forward, however, to make sure that the development of guidance and regulations to come do not have adverse consequences. This information is very hopeful for the seasoned social workers, as well for our new cohort of MSW students.

Speaking of our new students, we want to congratulate to our new scholarship recipients. The Scholarship committee was outstanding with the welcoming reception at Fordham University. Thank you, Elaine, for hosting the reception and Annecy for all your hard work with the students.

We welcome Olga Preciado our scholarship, for selecting our organization for her internship. We are truly looking for to mentoring her and exposed her to our advocacy and policies engagement.



### In this Issue

- Message from the President
- Corporate Opportunity
- Training Opportunity
- Social Work Spotlight
- Scholarship Awardees
- Welcome New Board Members

## SAVE THE DATE

18<sup>th</sup>

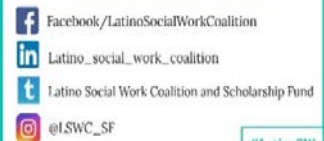
*Anniversary  
Gala*

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Copacabana  
from 6pm to 10:30 pm

Corporate Opportunities will be available for our Gala. Contact [iguervalu@outlook.com](mailto:iguervalu@outlook.com) for more information.

Training Opportunities will be available. Contact [olga@latinosocialwork.org](mailto:olga@latinosocialwork.org) for more information.

WE ARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!  
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## **Social Work Spotlight: Mental Health Providers of Western Queens**

Welcome to our new Agency Member Mental Health Providers of Western Queens! MHPWQ is dedicated to meeting the challenges in Western Queens, where forty nine percent of the population are immigrants from many countries, interspersed with residents from earlier migrations. MHPWQ recognizes the vision of providing services to a “Global Village”, in the sense that little parts of the world have assembled in our community, consisting of local Social Service Providers, Mental Health Systems, and the School System. MHPWQ works to be a resource in this “New Village”, where many ethnic groups have assembled often bringing with them trauma and loss.



<http://mhpwq.org/>

## **Scholarship Awardees of 2018-2019**



Maria Bernard and Jenny Maldonado (Fordham University), Vanessa Baez and Adriana Rosales (Hunter Silberman College), Cristino Chavez (Adelphi University), Yessica Carpio and Yinet Zapata (Lehman College), Mario Ismael Espinoza and Sahony Ramos (New York University), Cristina Ferrera and Maria Rodrick (Yeshiva University), Joseida Rosario and Marcos Huerta (Columbia University), Inyeska Jimenez and Maricela Aquino (Touro College). LSCW Leadership: Dr. Elaine Congress and Dr. Annecy Baez.

## **Upcoming Events:** A Nation of Immigrants? 50 Years of the New Immigration

It has been 50 years since the implementation of the 1965 Immigration and National Act (Hart and Culler), making family reunification guiding principle, and New York much more diverse. Fifty years later it faces its greatest challenge. This conference will focus on the implementation, current challenges, and advocacy efforts to address these issues.

\*\*FREE but please RSVP. For more information, email Dr. Elaine at [congress@fordham.edu](mailto:congress@fordham.edu)  
Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018/ 9:00am- 12:00pm - Fordham University, Lincoln Center, 12th Floor

## **Welcome New Board Members**



**Glenny Valoy, Ph.D**  
College Professor  
Borough of Manhattan Community College



**Sophine Charles, Ph.D**  
Director, Preventive Services Policy and Practice  
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies